

The proposed Broadcast Flag for digital television would be utterly ineffective in its purported aim - prevention of piracy. Pirates will simply continue to do what they already do: re-record the analog output of a digital device. No broadcast flag can prevent such abuse.

Worse, it would be a disaster for innovation in the consumer electronics market. Innovations in the set-top-box area (such as Tivo and Moviestream) would be subject to hollywood's approval and restrictions on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, the open-source software phenomenon which is a vital part of our business infrastructure would be legally blocked from having anything to do with digital television.

Hollywood made the same arguments when the VCR was introduced, and fought in court to keep the VCR off the market. They lost in the Supreme Court, and now the VCR accounts for a large percentage of their revenue.

Please put the consumer first and don't be bullied by Hollywood's dubious arguments.